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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/615,866 | 07/10/2003 | Siege Tanaka | 116519 | 8430 |

25944 7590 02/06/2006

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EXAMINER

PATEL, RAMESH B

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2121

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/615,866 | Applicant(s) TANAKA, SIEGO | |
| | Examiner Ramesh B. Patel | Art Unit 2121 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/17/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.
2. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention.
"Office personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. The Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been received and filed in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 8/17/2005 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwai et al. (US Patent 6,334,080).

As to claims 1-2 and 9, Iwai teaches the invention including a control system comprising: a plurality of control apparatuses (see, figure 1B, ECU 20, 30), connected to each other to communicate with each other as shown in figure 1B through LAN connected to each other for communicating with each other, wherein: each of control apparatuses includes a first transmission unit for transmitting identification information of the control apparatus's own the other control apparatuses and a reception unit for

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receiving identification information of the other control apparatuses transmitted from the other control apparatuses as shown in figure 1B through ECU 20 and 30 are connected through LAN to receive and transmit data/parameters to be shared with each other (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 6, line 20); and a first storage unit for storing the identification information of the control apparatus's own and the identification information of the other control apparatuses to which registration update information is added in a table of the control apparatus's own (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 4, lines 12-44).

As to claims 3-4 and 10-11, Iwai teaches the system wherein the first storage unit conducts the storage at a time of first energization after the control apparatus are connected to each other and each of control apparatuses further includes a comparison unit for comparing table information read out from the table of the control apparatus's own and table information read out from the table of the other control apparatuses and when each of comparison units concludes that at least one of the table information is different from the other table information, each of first storage unit stores all the identification information to which new registration update information is added in each of tables as shown in figure 1B through ECU 20 and 30 are connected through LAN to receive and transmit data/parameters to be shared with each other (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 6, line 20).

As to claims 5 and 12, Iwai teaches the system wherein each of control apparatuses further includes: a second transmission unit and a second storage unit and when each of comparison units concludes that the at least one of the table information is different from the other table information, each second history information stored transmission units transmits the table of the control apparatus's own to the control apparatus including the at least one of the table information and each of second storage units stores the history information transmitted by the second transmission units in the table of the control apparatus's own is taught as the central processing station or toll booth having computer for storing and processing information received from vehicle's unit and cameras (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 6, line 20).

As to claims 6 and 13, Iwai teaches the system wherein the comparison units conduct the comparison at a predetermined timing (see, abstract and col. 13, line 51 to col. 14, line 37).

As to claims 7 and 14, Iwai teaches the system wherein further comprising: a reading unit for reading table information stored in each of tables of the control apparatuses, wherein: the reading unit includes: a transmission request unit for requesting at least one of the control apparatuses to transmit the table information stored in the table of the at least one of the control apparatuses (see, abstract and figures 2-7 and col. 6, lines 47-65); a notification unit for notifying the table information,

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which is transmitted on the basis of the request by the transmission request unit and each of control apparatuses includes a third transmission unit for transmitting the table information stored in the control apparatus's own to the reading unit on the basis of the request by the transmission request unit (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 6, line 20).

As to claims 8 and 15, Iwai teaches the system wherein the notification unit includes an indicator lamp mounted on a vehicle is taught as the vehicle includes various sensors to provide signals from sensor such as speed sensor (see, figures 2-7 and col. 6, lines 47-65).

As to claim 16, Iwai teaches the system wherein the storage unit includes a table storing exchange and repair history of the control apparatus and exchange and repair history of another control apparatus (see, abstract and figures 1A-7 and col. 3, lines 13-33 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 6, line 20).


As to claims 17-18, Iwai teaches the system wherein each of the control apparatuses includes an output unit to output a control signal to at least one actuator (see, abstract and figures 2-7 and col. 1, lines 16-50 and col. 6, lines 47-65).

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-3688. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th; 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571-272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ramesh B. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2121
1/31/06

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